REMARKS

Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for allowing claim 2 and indicating the allowability of the subject matter of claims 7, 12, and 17.

With the present amendment, claims 5, 10, 15, and 20 have been amended to depend from allowable claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, and to clarify their intent. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been canceled. Moreover, claims 7, 12, and 17 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections. Thus, it is requested that the Examiner provide an indication of the allowability of all of the pending claims.

The amendments to the claims and new claims 21 - 28 do not add any new matter. Support for the amendments and new claims is found, *inter alia*, at pages 24 and 25 of the specification.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

P21337.A06

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

> Respectfully submitted, Toshiro TSUCHIDA

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